

REMARKS:

The claims in the application remain 1, 3-10, 12, 19-21, 34 and 37-40.

Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-10, 12, 19-21, 34, 37 and 40 have been allowed in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Only Claims 38 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over previously-cited U.S. Pat. No. 5,088,176 to Koga in view of previously-cited WO 02/04279 to Goebel et al, in paragraph 5 of the Office Action. Basically, it is asserted Koga shows pivoting of workpiece 1 around vertical axis 4 extending perpendicular to direction of movement of the workpiece 1, as analogous to pivoting of carriages 20, 40, 60 about axis 32 as recited in Claim 38 (reference is being made to preferred embodiments of the present invention illustrated in the drawings of the present application).

Accordingly, independent Claim 38 has been amended to recite carriages 20, 40, 60 pivot about axis 32 extending both substantially horizontally and perpendicularly to the direction of movement C of the workpieces 22 extending along the handling line 12. Neither Koga nor Goebel et al teach or suggest this particular arrangement. The remaining art of record has not been applied against Claims 38 and 39 and will not be commented upon further at this time.

Accordingly, in view of the forgoing amendment, accompanying remarks and explicit statements in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted all claims pending herein are in condition for allowance. Please contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George M. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

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